

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, the method comprising:
 - receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;
 - comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
 - granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving includes receiving the request from a push-to-talk (PTT) device.
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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority levels are dynamically assigned.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:
interrupting the first communication device after said granting floor control to the second communication device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:
informing participating communication devices in the network that the second communication device has the floor control.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the second communication device has a lower priority level, informing the second communication device that it has been denied floor control.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;

placing the first communication device in a wake-up state;

receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving includes receiving the request from a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the priority levels are dynamically assigned.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further including:

bringing the first communication device out of the wake-up state after said granting floor control to the second communication device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, further including:

informing participating communication devices in the network that the second communication device has been placed in the wake-up state.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein if the second communication device has a lower priority level, informing the second communication device that it has been denied floor control.

13. (Original) A computer-readable medium embodying a method for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, the method comprising:

receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

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14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;
placing the first communication device in a wake-up state;
receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

15. (Original) An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, comprising:

means for receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;
means for comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
means for granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, comprising:

means for receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;
means for placing the first communication device in a wake-up state;
means for receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;
means for comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
means for placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

17. (Original) An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, comprising:

a receiver to receive information over the network;
a transmitter to transmit information over the network; and
a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:
receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;
comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and
granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, comprising:

a receiver to receive information over the network;
a transmitter to transmit information over the network; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver and the transmitter, the processor being capable of:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device;

placing the first communication device in a wake-up state;

receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

placing the second communication device in the wake-up state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

19. (New) A method for arbitrating between a first communication device having floor control in a group communication network and a second communication device competing for floor control, the method comprising:

receiving a floor-control request from the second communication device;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device using a push-to-talk (PTT) arbitration algorithm for resolving arbitration conflicts; and

granting floor control to the second communication device if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the PTT arbitration algorithm is individually configured on a per net basis.

21. (New) A method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device operating in a first state;

placing the first communication device in a second state;

receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device operating in a first state;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

placing the second communication device in a second state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium embodying a method for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device operating in a first state;

placing the first communication device in a second state;

receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device operating in a first state;

comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

placing the second communication device in a second state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.

23. (New) An apparatus for arbitrating between a first communication device and a second communication device competing for floor control in a group communication network, the method comprising:

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means for receiving a first floor-control request from the first communication device operating in a first state;

means for placing the first communication device in a second state;

means for receiving a second floor-control request from the second communication device operating in a first state;

means for comparing respective priority levels of the first communication device and the second communication device; and

means for placing the second communication device in a second state if the second communication device has a higher or equal priority level.